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Kernan Announces Training Grants for 1,125 Workers at Four Northeastern Indiana Companies

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Commerce has awarded four northeastern Indiana companies with training grants from its Skills Enhancement Fund.

“We’re happy to support our Hoosier businesses as they grow by contributing these training grants, said Kernan, who serves as the director of the Department of Commerce. “Companies like these that invest in both equipment and improving the skills of their workforce are making solid choices – choices that will ensure their competitiveness for years to come.”

- **Avery Dennison – Fasson Roll North America**, Fort Wayne, received a \$56,000 training grant to retrain 170 employees following the company’s \$5.8 million investment in buildings and equipment upgrades. Founded in 1935, the company is a global leader in pressure-sensitive technology and self-adhesive solutions for consumer product and label materials. Avery Dennison develops, manufactures and markets a wide range of products for consumers and will use the state funding to offer its employees training in computer skills, curtain coating, converting, films and quality control procedures.
- **Edy’s Grand Ice Cream**, Fort Wayne, has been awarded a \$93,500 grant to train 89 new and 248 existing associates following the company’s \$4.28 million investment in building renovations and new technology. Established in 1977, Edy’s is a wholly owned subsidiary of California-based Dryer’s. Incorporated in 1981, the company manufactures ice cream for all states east of the Rocky Mountains. Using the grant, Edy’s will train employees in basic refrigeration, sensory training, computer skills, team building and ice cream freezer procedures.
- **MACSTEEL Heat Treating Division**, Huntington, was awarded a \$12,000 grant to provide training for 36 incumbent employees following the company’s investment of \$992,000 in equipment. MACSTEEL heat-treats up to 36,000 tons of bar steel per year. Through the training, MACSTEEL employees will pick up new skills in basic math, crane operation, welding, metallurgy, computers, heat treating and finishing, SPC, APQP and ISO 14000.

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- **Parker Hannifin Corp.**, New Haven, received a \$148,000 grant to train 80 new and 502 existing workers in support of the company's \$3 million investment in new equipment. Established in 1991, the company provides mission-critical technologies for automation, computer production, telecommunications and semiconductor fabrication. Parker Hannifin will use the grant to train employees in basic math and algebra, English-as-a-second-language, communications, blueprint reading, computer skills, Kanban, computerized numeric coding, lean manufacturing, forklift, metrology, SPC, Six Sigma and ISO 14001.

The Commerce department awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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